

**HOWARD COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS' MEETING: MAY 1, 2023**

The Howard County Board of Commissioners met in Regular Session on Monday, May 1, 2023, at 4:00 p.m. in Hearing Room 338 of the Howard County Administration Center. Those in attendance included President Brad Bray, Vice President Jack Dodd, Member Jeff Lipinski, and County Auditor Jessica Secrease. County Attorney Alan Wilson was absent.

The meeting was called to order by Sheriff Jerry Asher and conducted by President Brad Bray. President Bray led the Pledge of Allegiance, and Commissioner Lipinski offered a word of prayer.

**IN THE MATTER OF APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

The minutes of April 17, 2023, regular meeting, having been previously submitted and reviewed, were approved as presented on a motion made by Commissioner Dodd, Commissioner Lipinski seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

**IN THE MATTER OF DEPARTMENTAL BUSINESS & REPORTS:**

**AUDITOR'S OFFICE**

***Annual Report to the State Superintendent of Public Instruction***

Auditor Jessica Secrease submitted the annual report to the State Superintendent of Public Instruction. The State Superintendent of Public Instruction was approved as presented on a motion made by Commissioner Dodd. Commissioner Lipinski seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

**PLAN COMMISSION**

***Rezoning (Case 4-CZ-23)***

Plan Commission Executive Director Greg Sheline submitted Ordinance No. 2023-BCCO-16 for the rezoning of the property located at 792 N 700 W., Kokomo, Indiana from AG (Agriculture) to RR (Rural Residential). There was a favorable recommendation by the board. There was no remonstrance. With the rezoning request having been heard, Commissioner Lipinski made a motion to approve Ordinance No. 2023-BCCO-16 as presented. Commissioner Dodd seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

***Subdivision (Case 2-CP-23)***

Plan Commission Executive Director Greg Sheline submitted a new subdivision, Merrell Manor Subdivision, located on a new lot at 792 N. 700 W., Kokomo, Indiana. There was a favorable recommendation by the board. There was no remonstrance. Merrell Manor has one lot and was approved. With the new subdivision request having been heard, Commissioner Lipinski made a motion to approve Merrell Manor Subdivision, located on a new lot at 792 N. 700 W., Kokomo, Indiana as presented. Commissioner Dodd seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

**RECORDER'S OFFICE**

***Laredo Agreement***

Recorder Torie Kelley submitted the agreements with City of Kokomo, Midwest Title & Escrow LLC, and Indiana Search Technologies for the Laredo Contracts. The agreements with City of Kokomo, Midwest Title & Escrow LLC, and Indiana Search Technologies for the Laredo Contracts were approved as submitted on a motion made by Commissioner Lipinski. Commissioner Dodd seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

**IN THE MATTER OF NEW BUSINESS:**

**COMMISSIONERS**

***FEMA License/Use Agreement***

Commissioner Dodd submitted the FEMA License Agreement that he signed last week. A motion to ratify Commissioner Dodd's signature on the FEMA License Agreement was made by Commissioner Lipinski. President Bray seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

**HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT**

***Resurfacing Project Advertising***

Highway Superintendent Amber Tolle presented the bids for the Community Crossings paving project. One bid was submitted on May 1, 2023 at 12:44pm for \$2,558,705.00. The conditional bid for the Community Crossings paving project was approved as presented on a motion made by Commissioner Dodd. Commissioner Lipinski seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

**MAINTENANCE DEPARTMENT**

***Concrete Replacement:***

Maintenance Superintendent Bill Stonestreet submitted a quote to replace the concrete at the jail loading dock from Bergman Concrete in the amount of \$17,250.00. Mr. Stonestreet requested to pay this from the Cumulative Capital Development Fund (line item 1138.47241.000.0000). A motion was made by Commissioner Dodd to approve the quote to replace the concrete at the jail loading dock by Bergman Concrete in the amount of \$17,250.00 and to be paid out of the Cumulative Capital Development Fund (line item 1138.47241.000.0000) as presented. Commissioner Lipinski seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

**IN THE MATTER OF CLAIMS AND REPORTS:**

Howard County Auditor Jessica Secrease submitted the following claims and reports for the Commissioners' information and approval:

1. **Salary Claims:** The Commissioners' Salary, Hourly, and Overtime Claims for payment on April 21, 2023, in the amounts of \$941,334.45 were submitted and approved on a motion made by Commissioner Dodd. Commissioner Lipinski seconded the motion, and the motion carried.
2. **Payroll Expenses:** The Commissioners' Payroll Expenses for payment on April 21, 2023, in the amounts of \$941,334.45 were submitted and approved as presented on a motion made by Commissioner Dodd. Commissioner Lipinski seconded the motion, and the motion carried.
3. **Operating Claims:** The Commissioners' Operating Claims to be paid May 1, 2023, in the amount of \$1,482,149.88 was submitted and approved as presented on a motion made by Commissioner Dodd. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Lipinski, and the motion carried.
4. **Monthly Reports:** Auditor Jessica Secrease presented the following reports to be received into the record:
  - a. Treasurer's Monthly Report for March 2023

**IN THE MATTER OF COMMISSIONER ISSUES:**

Commissioner Dodd attended a township assistance appeal hearing on April 28, 2023 for LaSaundra Reed. Mrs. Reed failed to appear to the appeal. Commissioner Dodd recommends that the Commissioners deny the appeal do to her absence. Commissioner Lipinski made a motion to deny the township assistance appeal. Commissioner Bray seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

Commissioner Lipinski has checked on the Stevens property several times and has noticed that there has been no progress being made on the property. Greg Sheline stated that a couple estimates were sent out but nothing has happened since. Mr. Sheline will reach out to county attorney Alan Wilson once he returns.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS:**

*Resident Brad Semon of 10954 E. 100 S., Greentown, Indiana:* Mr. Semon stated that Wabash County has ban solar on farm ground in their county indefinitely. They have bi-laws to keep farm ground farm ground forever. He wants to know if Howard County has any bi-laws similar to this.

*There being no further business to come before the Board of Commissioners at this time the meeting was adjourned at 4:16 p.m. on a motion made by Commissioner Dodd. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Lipinski, and the motion carried.*

**HOWARD COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS:**

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R. BRAD BRAY, PRESIDENT

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JACK W. DODD, VICE PRESIDENT

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JEFF S. LIPINSKI, MEMBER

**ATTEST:**

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JESSICA SECREASE, AUDITOR

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